Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining mean circulating ~~Hb~~ hemoglobin (Hb) levels above 5.0 g/dL in a patient suffering from massive blood loss comprising administering to the patient a polymerized hemoglobin solution in an amount of at least one blood volume of the patient.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein hemoglobin solution is an acellular solution comprising an essentially tetramer-free, cross-linked, polymerized hemoglobin solution which is substantially free of stroma and other contaminants.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 23, wherein the polymerized hemoglobin has a molecular weight distribution of:

(a) from about 5-30% by weight of polymerized hemoglobin of polymer having a molecular weight of about 128 KDa;

(b) from about 15-35% by weight of polymerized hemoglobin of polymer having a molecular weight of about 192 KDa; and

(c) from about 35-75% by weight of polymerized hemoglobin of polymer having a molecular weight of about 256 KDa.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the hemoglobin solution is administered in an amount of at least 5L.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the administration of the hemoglobin solution maintains arterial pressure above 60 mmHg.

28. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the hemoglobin solution is administered at a rate of at least about 2 units per minute.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the solution avoids the toxicities associated with vasoconstriction, and renal, pancreatic, gastrointestinal and cardiac dysfunction.

30. (Previously Amended) A method for treating a human having a hemoglobin concentration below about 7 g/dL as the result of a massive blood loss and, comprising administering to the human a polymerized hemoglobin solution in an amount above 5L sufficient to maintain arterial pressure above 60 mmHg.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein hemoglobin solution is an acellular solution comprising an essentially tetramer-free, cross-linked, polymerized hemoglobin solution which is substantially free of stroma and other contaminants.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the hemoglobin solution is administered in an amount of at least one blood volume of the mammal.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the administration of the hemoglobin solution maintains a mean circulating hemoglobin level greater than 5.0 g/dL.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the hemoglobin solution is administered at a rate of at least about 2 units per minute.

37. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the solution avoids the toxicities associated with vasoconstriction, and renal, pancreatic, gastrointestinal and cardiac dysfunction.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein the polymerized hemoglobin has a molecular weight distribution of:

(a) from about 5-30% by weight of polymerized hemoglobin of polymer having a molecular weight of about 128 KDa;

(b) from about 15-35% by weight of polymerized hemoglobin of polymer having a molecular weight of about 192 KDa; and

(c) from about 35-75% by weight of polymerized hemoglobin of polymer having a molecular weight of about 256 KDa.

Claims 39-47 (Cancelled)